

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A method of manufacturing a glass article comprising the steps of heat softening a glass material that has been preformed and press molding the glass material with a pressing mold, characterized in that each lot of preformed glass material is subjected to precision cleaning, a cleaned lot of glass material is subjected to sampling inspection of a surface free energy, and only a lot with minimum surface free energy levels of greater than or equal to  $60 \text{ mJ/m}^2$  is fed to the heat softening step, and then fed to the press molding step.

2. (previously presented): The method of manufacturing according to claim 1, wherein the cleaned preformed glass material is kept in an atmosphere that maintains a surface free energy of greater than or equal to  $60 \text{ mJ/m}^2$  from after cleaning until the start of the heat softening step.

3. (currently amended): A method of manufacturing a glass article comprising the steps of heat softening a glass material that has been preformed and press molding the preformed glass material with a pressing mold, characterized in that each lot of glass material is subjected to precision cleaning, a cleaned lot of glass material is subjected to sampling inspection of a surface free energy, a surface layer is formed on only a lot a preformed glass material ~~of a lot~~ with minimum surface free energy levels of greater than or equal to  $60 \text{ mJ/m}^2$ , and then the glass

material in the lot of glass materials with a surface layer is fed to the heat softening step and press molding step.

4. (original): The method of manufacturing according to claim 3, wherein the surface layer is a thin film comprised primarily of carbon with a film thickness of greater than or equal to 0.1 nanometer and less than or equal to 1 micrometer.

5. (previously presented): The method of manufacturing according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the cleaned preformed glass material is kept in an atmosphere that maintains a surface free energy of greater than or equal to  $60 \text{ mJ/m}^2$  from after cleaning until the surface layer is formed.